



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

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**Statement of State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster**

*"A cut by any other name is still a cut," says Burmaster*

MADISON— State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster issued the following statement on the recent action of the Joint Committee on Finance.

"Last Friday, the Joint Finance Committee passed a budget that is not only out of touch with Wisconsin values, but is an attack on the future of quality education in Wisconsin at every level—early childhood, K-12 education, technical colleges, and the UW-System.

"One member of the Joint Finance Committee suggested that 'Anyone who says this budget cuts education funding is lying, pure and simple.' The truth of the matter is that the Joint Finance Committee's budget removes \$350 million dollars in available resources from Wisconsin schools. The pure and simple fact is that under the Joint Finance Committee's budget, schools will have significantly less to spend. When it comes to funding schools, a cut by any other name is still a cut.

"Some members of the committee claim that children and the quality of their education will not be harmed by their budget. Allowing schools to spend significantly less than the rate of inflation, means they will lose their capacity to fund current programs. This will result in immediate cuts in staff, programs, educational services, and course offerings.

"The bottom line is that the people of Wisconsin want, and their children deserve, a fiscally responsible balanced budget that protects quality education and local property taxpayers. I call on the Legislature to pass a budget that prioritizes taxpayers *and* quality education."

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